

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA completes thirteen-year acquisition plan

With the purchase of the last house on Brighton, the path lies open for major expansion

By Ryan Hill
Features Editor

In October of 1996, MBA began what will surely prove to be one of its biggest endeavors ever with the acquisition of the first lot on Brighton Road. Thirteen years later, about midway through September of this year, the school finally bought the last of 15 properties. Each house took about a year to buy, and a total of \$6,750,500 was spent overall. With all this new land, including additional school property on Wilson near the sophomore parking lot, MBA is about to embark upon an enormous process of expansion that many of the underclassmen may see completed before they graduate.

Only after talking with Mr. Sam Jackson, the Director of Finance and Operations, did I get an idea of how huge the school's construction plans are. By April 2010, MBA hopes to receive the go-ahead from Metro to dig up Brighton Road and begin some serious demolition at the Wilson entrance. Both of these steps require meeting with the city council and getting its approval concerning effects on water quality.



Pending approval from the city council, Brighton Road, currently the site of overflow parking, will be torn up for the expansion of campus and construction of new tennis courts. Photo by Parrish Preston

This meeting was set to happen last week, but it has been postponed temporarily. The wonderful news is that the school, according to civil engineer Dan Barge (Class of '74) and architect William Hastings (Class of '90), will, in fact, have cleaner run-off than before, due to the movement of the

maintenance shed and dumpsters.

Along with Brighton Road, the Wallace building, tennis courts, and sophomore parking lot will cease to exist. But have no fear, tennis players! You all will enjoy brand new courts where Brighton is now. In place of the current courts and

parking area off of Wilson will stand a multi-story parking garage with a soccer field on top. This idea came mainly from UCLA, during a tour of some schools in California that Mr. Gioia and others made a

continued on page 7

Big Red looks to roll over Ensworth in playoffs

By Alex Apple
Sports Editor

Earlier in the year MBA came into the home game against Ensworth believing fully that the Big Red could take down the Tigers. As soon as the team walked on the field, they were scrambling. Orleans Darkwa gashed MBA's defense like Tom Brady playing against the Titans. Additionally, QB Luke Colbert went down with a scary season-ending neck injury.

For a few games after that defeat, MBA looked lost and without an identity. They had a one-dimensional offense and were plagued by giving up big plays on defense. In recent weeks, however, MBA seems to be playing its best football since the Maplewood game earlier in the year. Sophomore Aaron Simonis has finally come on to play quarterback over the last

few weeks, and he has completely changed MBA's offense.

In previous weeks MBA had no passing game to speak of, and defenses were able to key on the running game, holding down Fitz Lassing and Tyler Franks. Senior Andrew Phillips said of Simonis, "He is a very confident leader, and he has really helped our running game in addition to the passing game because defenses now have to respect our passing game again."

The Big Red will have to play a near perfect game to beat Ensworth, but do not count the team out. Offensively, MBA must stay on the field. Their best defense against Orleans Darkwa will be keeping him off the field with successful sustained drives. If MBA can establish a solid run game early, the passing game will open up and pressure

continued on page 12



Run over in its first game against EHS, the Big Red hopes to rebound in their second meeting. Photo courtesy of smugmug.com

INSIDE

John Lowe's flowing locks...5

A guide to MBA's restrooms...7

Cross country state championship...13



THE BELL RINGER

Pat Killian
Editor-in-Chief

Andrew Powell, *News Editor*

Michael Seitz, *Features Editor*

Ryan Hill, *Assistant Features Editor*

Alex Apple and Kyle Brantley, *Sports Editors*

Alvin Kim and Will Henry, *Entertainment Editors*

Dalton Fouts, *Business Manager*

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Another wall needs to fall

**Poor US diplomacy
jeopardizes Eastern
European freedom**

By Aaron Lutkowitz
Staff Opinions Writer

After the ominous anniversary this year of the Tiananmen Square massacre, this past week, the 20-year anniversary of the Berlin Wall's collapse, is a welcome sigh of relief for the development of human rights around the world. Without the help of the United States and our involvement in the Cold War, millions of Eastern Europeans would never experience these joys; but after 20 years of commitment to their freedoms, in one snap decision, President Obama took several steps back in this progress by abandoning a missile shield program in this unstable region.

His original intent was two-fold: to prove the legitimacy of his "reset" with Russia and to transfer pressure to a larger threat - Iran. Unfortunately, scaling back a missile shield accomplishes neither of these goals. Russia responds most favorably to our interests with a sophisticated United States approach. Although President Bush's often antagonistic stance compromised our relationship with Russia, and

perhaps prompted an invasion into Georgia, his over-friendly view in 2003 was equally counter-productive. Balance is the key in dealing with Russia, and Obama has failed to master it. His continuous concessions to Russia with nothing in return accomplish nothing. Obama promised he would move missile shields without any preconditions from Russia; an obvious agreement would entail a requirement that Russia vote for any United States-backed sanctions against Iran. If such an item of negotiation were on the table during the multiple talks between the two countries over the past few months, Russia would refuse. Iran is so geographically close that Russia cannot risk harming relations with a nuclear-bound state. Obama expects Russia to agree to international proposals against Iran, but such a desire is impossible. Even if Russia acquiesced, China, long opposed to United Nations actions against Iran, could still veto any Western efforts against Iran. Iran can still develop nuclear weapons, and Russia now views the United States as weak and easy to manipulate as long as Obama remains in the White House.

The USSR fell two years after the Berlin Wall did; similarly, Eastern Europe is likely to feel the effects of this shift much sooner than Russia will. Eastern Europe relies on

help from the United States and Western European states against the threat of a hegemonic Russia. Western European, preoccupied with concerns of Russian oil and natural gas, often leaves this responsibility to the United States. Our leadership in the success of Eastern Europe cannot be over-estimated. States like Georgia and Kosovo are willing to oppose a militaristic Russia because they know they have the backing of the United States; these missile shield concessions jeopardize this regional sense of empowerment. Lacking trust in the United States, Eastern Europe may turn toward a body that can actually protect them, including – ironically – Russia. The Czech Republic voted against the Lisbon Treaty, a symbol of their distrust for the European Union and a Western style of unity. The Obama administration giving in to Russia only enhances these imbalances.

The image of the Berlin Wall falling is full of passion. Eager faces singing Hasselhoff's "Looking for Freedom" remind us of the importance of fostering democracy and human rights within Eastern Europe. Iran remains a dire threat, one that will require the assistance of Russia, but conceding security for the gain of nothing is never a good strategy for the United States. Now, only our wall of ignorance must topple down!

New program lightens loads

By Hayden Deakins
Staff Writer

This year the English department has made an enormous change in the way students are to turn in assignments, by instructing students to turn in the homework and themes on line with the use of Dropboxes.

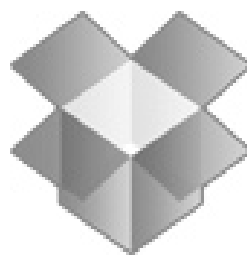
Dropbox, succinctly, is an online storage device that backs up music files, pictures, and documents while at the same time allowing the user to share their information stored in the Dropbox with other users.

In order to get a Dropbox, one must go to Dropbox's website and download a file for the folder itself. Once the folder has been downloaded, the user can invite other people to look at documents published in the folder.

By keeping files all at one website, the use of USB drives to share files or emailing and attaching files to

other teachers and students is eliminated due to the convenience and accessibility of the Dropbox folder.

Because every English teacher essentially lives off of his laptop, having students turn in assignments online eliminates the hassle of carrying around stacks and stacks of paper and also cuts down the amount of paper used in class.



Dropbox

Teachers deny danger of 2012

By Paul Moore
Staff Writer

Many people have heard the theories and rumors about the end of the world in 2012. These dire predictions are fabricated by people who want a hot topic about which to write and by which to gain notoriety for themselves. Most of the statements are not true.

I talked to teachers educated in the subject to get a true understanding on the matter. History teacher Mr. Russ, Spanish teacher Mr. Paolicchi, and astronomy

teacher Dr. Dickens, all know the complete story on the situation. From their studies, we can understand that the Mayans had a very complex calendar. The Mayan calendar cycle apparently ended in 2012, but they made no prediction about that date. Later civilizations came along and supplied the current hoopla about this end of the calendar. Many writers today are speculating that the end of the Mayan calendar represents the end of the world.

In fact, we have these facts, but interpretations of the idea have arisen that anything can happen. No one

really knows what will occur in 2012, but we hope it is not what has been predicted. From a Mayan standpoint, the world will not end. Regarding the situation, Mr. Paolicchi says "If you brought a Mayan into today's society, assuming that he did not die from the shock of today's advancement, he would say 'What? We never said that.'"



Freshmen shoot for moon, land among stars

By McLean Hudson
Staff Writer

Our first year in high school is flying by, and we freshmen are making the most of it...

In fall sports, JV cross country took second in the state meet, losing only to Father Ryan's varsity and beating teams like BA, McCallie, and BGA. **Alex Smith** ran with the varsity in the state meet, taking 23rd place in spite of a stress fracture. The freshmen football team ended a promising season with overtime losses to Ensworth and Father Ryan. We'll just blame it on the refs and get ready for next year.

The winter sports are now starting up, with swimming and wrestling in full swing. Some freshman swimmers are **Tate Ramsden, Lucas Littlejohn, Andrew Dobbs, Falkner Werkhaven, George Swenson, Wesley Nealy, and Chandler Burgess.** **Falkner Werkhaven** would like to ask everyone to consider joining swimming. Warning: "Jacked kids only."

Meanwhile debate is still arguing rapidly. **McKay Proctor** would like to announce that "debate is doing work."

On an unrelated note, **Chris Hooks** wants everyone to know that he is selling stuff (unspecified), and to contact him for details. Also, if you have any unused books lying around, he will take them off your hands for free. As opposed to...our paying you, Chris?

Henry Lynch and **Jake Simons** will now announce in a typed, yet simultaneous



Freshmen prepare for tug-of-war. They're going to lose, of course, but hey, they try. Photo by Mr. Jamie Tillman

fashion, "phub phubphub!"

Andy Seay is now the first to publish the year's church ball smack: "First Pres basketball will own all others." I would like to elaborate on the matter with the fact that FPC (a.k.a. the God Squad) will destroy **Mark Lowe** and the Thunderchickens. We are also aiming for our best record in five years: 3-5. Hey, crazier things have



happened.

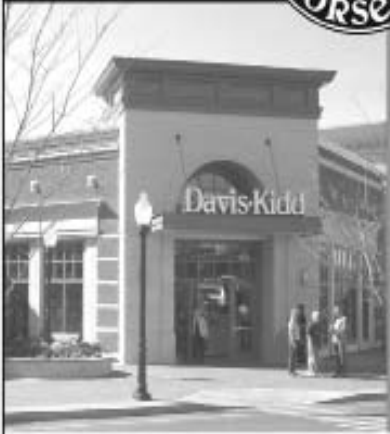
Kevin Wang commented last week that he wishes "the Chinese were more American." **Tom Bu** responded, "I wouldn't trade my marvelous ethnicity for anything in the world...except maybe a one-hundred in Latin."

Mr. Golenor's sixth period math class's fantasy football league is really

heating up. In the words of Mark Lowe, "It's intense."


With the passing of the second mid-quarter, many students are beginning to look towards exams. Between now and then, keep your grades up, respect thy mother and thy father, and try not to do anything stupid enough to make it into the freshmen news. Have a magical day.



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Scotty Peters and the Junior News set records

By Andrew Powell
News Editor

I BELIEVE (*I believe...*) . . . I BELIEVE THAT (*I believe that...*) . . . I BELIEVE THAT WE JUST WON!!!

Michael “Calves of a God” Peters, Ryan “Glad to Have Him Back” Hill, and Hayes “Big Booty” McCord placed 3rd, 4th, and 7th in the TSSAA State Cross Country Meet (See **Tom Markham**’s article for full coverage of the exciting day!) and carried the Big Red to a dominating 1st place finish – our first state championship in the past 10 years and only third in school history! **Connor “Deep-Fried Honeybuns” Caldwell** led a large group of footballers, who came in full-force to cheer and feast, attempting to gulp down as many calories as we XC guys burned over our entire season. **Warren Smith, John Wyse, Ben Crook, and Alex Austin** showed their spirit by paintin’ up. Roll Red. It was a great day for MBA, especially for the juniors.

It is a new day in the world of Junior News. I can’t really tell you why, ‘cause that would ruin the surprise of course, but you’ll just have to trust me on this one.

My blanket class email got heaps of responses this time, to use an Aussie-ism, which was rather exciting. **Jarvis Werkhaven**, however, did not reply to my email. The increase in responses might have had something to do with the glorious prizes available to anyone who replied; a Smoothie King frequent buyer card with one punch on it and a pair of black tube socks were among the most notable. I was going to offer a plastic snake which mysteriously appeared on my car the other day and **Van East** says he would pay bank for, but **Partha Reddy** informed me the attempted attack-by-plastic-serpent was **Tre 4**’s doing and that they want their assassin back.

That brings me to my first topic of conversation – the disbanding of Tre 4. Partha declined to comment when approached by news crews, but there do appear to be some whisperings of underground operations. Many analysts suggest Tre 4 couldn’t take the heat from that funny-looking yet supremely awesome and jealousy-inducing arm-thing **Michael Peters** does (ask him about it if you don’t know). With that sentence, Michael Peters broke his own record number of times mentioned in consecutive news articles (which he set earlier in this article)! For everyone aspiring to be more like Mike (which is most of us), he has now set the bar very high with 9 mentions. Get to work, young Michael-wannabes.

Bill Shofner continues to haunt the MBA campus, leading some experts to postulate that he actually still goes here. On a side note, **Wyzzul** warns us there is an imposter Callimachus on campus...beware. **Billy Quakes**, on the other hand, does still go here. JV lax, nbd. **Matthew Johnson** informed me that the big Calloween Ultimate tourney got postponed all because of Will. Good d Will. He went on to say, after something of little importance about UT, that “uhh yeah, Will is a loser.”

Jack Hallemann has been working on his hammer. And his flick. And his scoober. Bonus points if you know what he’s talking about. He also brags that he will hit rim again this year. Let’s not get too cocky, Jack.

Speaking of churchball, **AA** announces that “Covenant churchball is lookin’ real strong this year. With all returning starters and the possible addition of **Clay Adams** on waivers, there is no reason this team couldn’t go deep this year.” Rumors are surfacing of a shooting-star-alley-oop in the making. Yeah, be scared, Westminster Green Wave. Btw, Green Wave car bash by

Christ Ballers in 3 weeks.

On a more serious note, **Nick Kohler** got engaged (happy, Ford?) to a young lady from Florida. Okay...right...moving on. It is good to see, though, that after getting that little tidbit of his future figured out his Math League production experienced a serious up-take as he carried the **pre-Cal team** to a first-place team finish by placing 2nd individually, making him a big-time sleeper pick which did wonders for my IML fantasy team week 1 performance. **Patrick Duffey**, who has been being killed by Physics, mayne, is still not engaged.

As far as birthdays in the crowd, **Dangerous Dan** turned 17 on Nov. 1st; the one, the only **Mitchell Shope** shall grow a year older on Nov. 16th; and **Chad Hoback**’s b-day is the 21st of November. **Van East** told me that his birthday was in July and, thus, asked for a shout-out as well. Happy birthday, VEastahh!

Mkhululi Ray Mkhulisi sends his love from D.C. to all his “Brothers...☺” of the junior class. I know we all miss him, as well as **Tom, Luke, and Jules**.

Collin Brannon is enjoying waking up at four every morning for crew practice, which he says is the “bomb-diggity”.

Ben Charpentier was voted coolest name in the class. Sorry, **Air Tod**, maybe next year. **Douglass Smith** receives honorable mention in the name category for his 3 S’s in a row. Way to go, Douglass.

While **Christian Alford**, and everyone else, has been wipin’ her down, **Russ Anderson** has been feedin’ the children. He also recently played in a doubles tennis tournament with **Davis**. He told me they got attacked by some midget thugs and that Davis kissed his mom goodnight.

Hayes McCord got really muddy at a Halloween Party. And, he informs me, **Clay Garrett** has a new woman in his life.



Mkhululi Ray Mkhulisi gets creative at the Halloween dance. He and the other junior exchange students will be missed.

(No need to name names.)

Last and probably least, **Warren** wanted me to mention “how amazing Duke football is this year and how they are gonna win the ACC.” Roger that, Wardawg. Oh, and by the way, Warren, the big Auburn Tigers, who **PVP** points out aren’t doing too shabby, are going to beat Georgia this weekend.

Sophomores do it big in arts, sports, statistics

By Joe Scherrer
Staff Writer

Despite the sophomore second-quarter slump and slow football season, it has been “quite the happenin’ year,” according to **Will Peffen**. The peggle craze goes on, and **David Arteaga** continues to eat peanut butter cookie sandwiches, a healthy component of his daily diet.

Student bands are popping up now faster than ever. The Shambles is a new rock band started by drummer **Jamie Joyce, Preston Evans** and **Noah Fardon** on guitar and vocals, along with a guest bass player from Ensworth. They started when Preston invited Jamie to their 3rd collaboration, tired of the stale music scene, composed entirely of The Moderates. They have finished a 3-song EP and are working on an LP at J-Studios, the most advanced recording studio in the country. After performing at Powell’s Amazing House of Disco, they are now planning a “super-awesome-gig” with Stan vs. Wild and 5ManCrowd, two other high school bands.

Aaron Ardisson and **Vaughn Hunt** have also jumped in on the music scene with their new mashup-duo JoyCmplx. They’ve DJ’d at numerous events

already and plan to have a CD out soon.

The Ultimate Frisbee season has officially started on the Hill. Under Mr. Russ’s expert leadership, the MBA Ultimate team continues to completely obliterate anyone who gets in its way. “The funnest sport in the universe,” as **Rett Hooper** calls it, is led by stars **John Elam, Harry Woosley**, and (of course) **Baker Swain**.

Cross country finished its season with its 1st-place state finish last Saturday. **Daniel Peters** continued the family tradition of being way too ridiculously fast by finishing 8th in the state, only 5 places behind his brother Michael. Congratulations to everybody on the team for the excellent season!

The rifle team dished out another virtuoso performance at the Rifle Classic hosted here at MBA. Out of over 25 precision teams from around the country, the MBA shooters came in second. **Adam Hawiger** managed to shoot a 190 in standing, something that even the top shooters on the team have trouble doing. Meanwhile, the rest of the team continues planning and arms-stockpiling for Z-day.

Speaking of sports, the MBA mathletes traveled to JPII for their first competition last week. In Statistics, **Zach Chen** edged in a four-way tie for fourth,



Sophomores organize a charity walk for Autism research. Photo by Mr. Tillman

and **Karthik Sastry** came in first. The team beat out rivals USN and MLK, and, as Karthik duly noted, “We hit a butterfly with a sledgehammer.”

Love’s Labor’s Lost premiered a few weeks ago, with the talents of **John Elam, Jamie Joyce, Matt Anderson**, and **Hunter Woolwine**. Hunter noted that, though it was fun having a guest director

from Harpeth Hall, the best part “was definitely the Brits.” Look forward to *Fahrenheit 451*, which, according to **Eric Walsh**, will be “the best thing since hearty beef stew!”

In January, look forward to more news on sports, service projects, and deer hunting. Good luck on exams, and have a good holiday.

Seniors finish last quarter that actually matters

By Will Henry
Entertainment Editor

Nearly halfway through the second quarter, the seniors are kickin' it old school.

Bennett Cain recently purchased *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2*. He has already attained the highest level on XBOX Live, has beaten the campaign 7 times, and skipped a day of school to play. His parents are currently debating whether to send him to Utah or to a wilderness treatment program to combat his addiction.

David Dalton provided much-needed senior leadership to the cross country team at the State Meet. MBA won the meet, and David wanted to thank all those who came out and supported the Big Red.

Speaking of showing support, **Alex "O. Chan" Snow** attended St. Cecilia's play *The Wizard of Oz* this last weekend. **Alex Apple** and **Overton Thompson** were overheard complaining that they never get to hang out with Alex anymore because he is "always getting his mack on." Rumor has it, he can't help himself.

Daniel Smith, **Matt Moynihan**, and **Dalton Fouts** had a "teenager night" that consisted of extreme scootering, skateboarding, N64, and late-night bowling. In an act of sheer coordination, Daniel somehow managed to get hit in the head by a flying scooter and barely evaded death.

Last weekend, Antigua and Bar-

buda, consisting of **Will Henry** and **Joshua Liang**, and Canada, led by **Richard Wall** and **Pat "Sccccccchot" Killian**, ran train at the Model UN conference. Joshua was sent a Facebook friend request on Sunday that included a message saying, "Btw you're like a sexier version of Harold from *Harold and Kumar*." "You tell me how to respond to that."

Rowing 8-seat, led by seniors **Rob Higham**, **Corbin Williams**, and **Lewis Armistead**, beat McCallie again at Head of the Hooch. After the race, Lewis excitedly said, "I can only think of two things that feel better than beating McCallie in a race." A penny for his thoughts!

Kyle Brantley, who was recently offered a full scholarship from Pitt, went to Scottsburg, IN, and had the time of his life with his lady friend, Holly.

In other news, **Campbell Haynes** is still the master of debate, **Michael Seitz** attended the Art History class on test day, and **Trey Howard** named every movie ever made...in order.

Furthermore, several students and a palindrome have reported that **Will Henry** is "the coolest guy ever" at least fifteen times each.

In some not so recent news, **John Lowe** looks incredible every day; **Jonathan Golab** cannot be seen in his super-tinted, red Dodge Charger; and **Patrick Lovett** pretty much runs the school.



John Lowe's M&M costume outshines his hair. The Class of 2010 recently announced that one of John's locks will be given to the school as the class gift.

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Filmmaking couple studies, helps wolves

by Karthik Sastry
Staff Writer

Jim and Jamie Dutcher, a husband-and-wife team, have extensively studied North American wolves. They have made several documentary films about the intricate social structure of the wolves, including the Emmy award-winning *Wolves at Our Door*. As a preview to their upcoming visit to the school (Nov. 18), I talked with Jim about their work and interest in wolf conservation.

Bell Ringer: Jim, could you tell a little about your background and how you developed a passion for nature and filmmaking?

Jim Dutcher: As a young boy I developed an avid interest in nature. My grandparents had bought me a lifetime subscription to *National Geographic*, and it really inspired me to look for that kind of a career. I basically taught myself filmmaking. I was born severely dyslexic, and I found filmmaking a wonderful way to express myself. I eventually landed a job at National Geographic.

BR: Tell us about how you and Jamie ended up together.

JD: I met Jamie on an airplane flight coming back from a trip to Africa. Jamie was also returning from a similar expedition. She was at that time working for the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. It was a common interest in wildlife and animals that drew us together. She wasn't actually sitting next to

me on the plane!

BR: Why did you decide to study North American wolves?

JD: Jamie and I have always been interested in animals people don't know much about. Wolves are such social animals, but they are so misunderstood. We wanted to give wolves a voice.

BR: Tell us a little bit about what you have learned about wolves.

JD: Wolves are amazing social creatures, like gorillas and elephants. They bond with each other in a pack just like a family – taking care of their young, healing the wounded, and mourning for their dead. Wolf packs have a strong hierarchy, with an alpha pair leading the pack. They don't have the strength of a grizzly bear or other predators, so they must use intelligence and teamwork to hunt.

BR: On that note, what are your thoughts on wolves being hunted?

JD: Hunters like to target the biggest wolves, which are generally the alpha wolves who lead the pack. When you kill the alpha, you kill the entire knowledge base of the pack. With the alpha wolves gone, the pack forgets how to work together as a team and hunt and has to resort to more desperate measures like killing livestock. In general, the mentality of not understanding the wolf has to change, and that's one of our major educational goals.

BR: What is your target for wolf conservation?

JD: I hope we can have a wolf popula-



Jamie Dutcher embraces one of her misunderstood subjects. She and her husband Jim will visit MBA on Nov. 18 to discuss their work in film and conservation.

tion in the wild of about 3,000 in the western states, especially in the context of encouraging intermingling. Right now, the wolf population is in a few isolated pockets. If this continues, it could mean a very limited gene pool and extinction of the species. There is no fear of wolf overpopulation, though, because the ecosystem will keep a natural balance.

BR: What are you working on right

now?

JD: We don't do any filmmaking anymore because we want to focus more on our non-profit foundation "Living with Wolves" and get the wolf conservation message across. The funds we get for speaking around the country go back to our foundation. We don't want any income; we want to give back to the animals!

MBA honors current soldiers and veterans

By Zach Chen
Staff Writer

On November 11, Veterans Day, many people of the MBA community stood in front of the flagpole between Massey and Ingram to recognize all of the MBA alums who are currently serving or have served in the U.S. armed forces. The flag was raised and a moment of silence was taken in honor of these brave men. Jim Harbison, a retired Marine colonel, talked about the meaning of national identity and the bravery and honor that each one of these men has.

MBA has many alumni who are currently serving or have served in the armed forces. Faculty veterans include Mr. Andy Gaither, Mr. Will Norton, Cdr. Peter Carr, and many more. There are also a number of alums who are currently in the service, including Jameson Norton, Mr. Will Norton's brother; Patrick Wall, Mrs. Anne Christenson's nephew; Philip Simpson; Tee Tompkins; and Charlie Ezell. These men were all recognized at the flag-raising ceremony.

Recently, MBA has taken a lot of initiatives toward trying to help MBA alums that are currently overseas fighting in the armed forces. Different homerooms have sent care packages or raised money in support of these men and, in general, the troops currently serving. Morgan Cram has just finished his Eagle Scout project in urg-

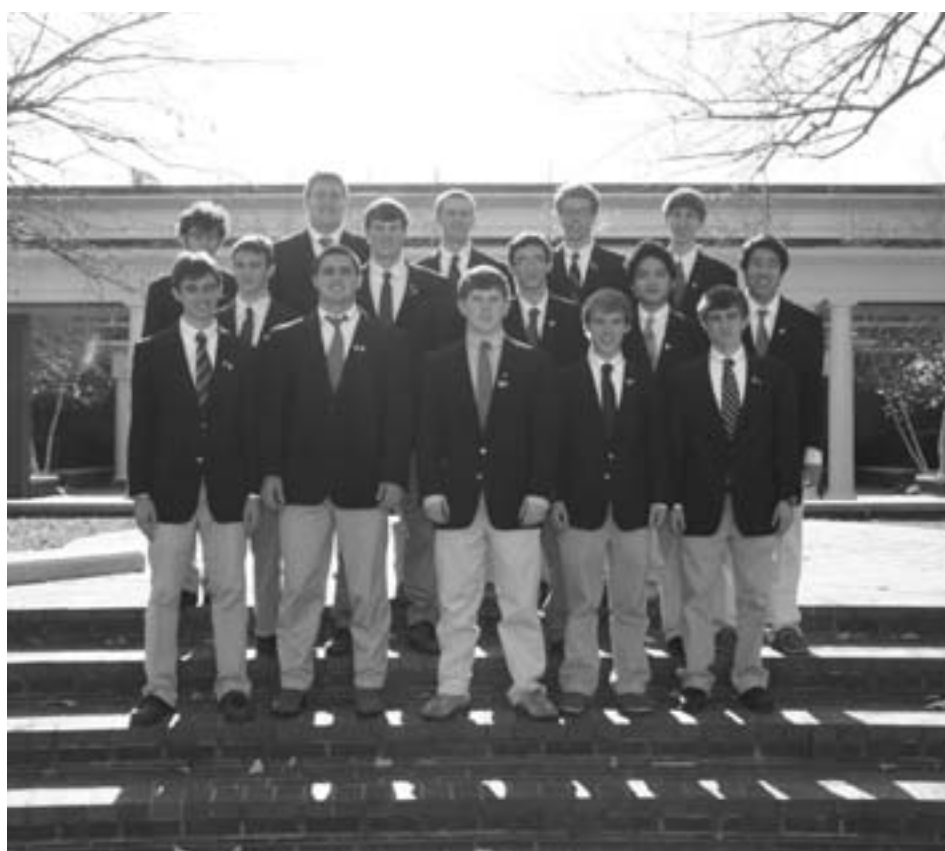
ing the whole school to create care packages that are going to be sent to alums that are currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. Mr. Norton and Mr. Gioia are putting together a care package of MBA memorabilia also to be sent overseas to them as something by which to remember the school.

These care packages, even though they may seem like trivial things, mean a lot to the troops. The care packages are usually something that they look forward to during the day. Mr. Norton described serving overseas as having few "creature comforts." Little things like chocolate bars or magazines are rarely, if ever, seen while serving overseas, so these packages are actually very helpful.

Besides the practical uses that these packages bring, the pure thought that people back home are supporting and thinking about you helps the soldier persevere through the hardships brought by living in places like Iraq or Afghanistan.

Mr. Norton recalls that when he was serving overseas, one of the most helpful and faithful senders of care packages was Mrs. O'Connell, and from experiencing how much these packages helped, Mr. Norton has urged the MBA community to help the troops overseas. In his opinion, there is no better way in helping out these troops than by sending these packages and showing one's care and support.

Totomoi taps eight new members



Congratulations to inductees Tee Griscom, Rob Higham, Eric Mace, Matt Bellet, Zach Sternberg, Joshua Liang, Jordan Herring, and Aaron Lutkowitz

MBA one step closer to new construction

continued from page 1

while ago. Hopefully, there will be a fence atop the garage to save any wayward soccer balls from plummeting to their deaths. Also, at the bottom of the garage there will be a new rifle range, so our team does not have to practice in the cafeteria any longer.

As for Wallace, in its place will be a new classroom building, to be named the Lowry Building, and lunch room. The debate team will have a sizable chunk of new space in the academic building as an upgrade from their currently humble headquarters. With a new dining area, Frist Hall will be converted into music classrooms, and students will have room to breathe during lunch once this building is erected.

Headmaster Gioia filled me in on the origins of inspiration for such a momentous project. "It was born out of a vision that schools are going to have to compete with their neighborhoods for space and favor. In this situation, it is best to have a self-contained and harmonious campus, one that I believe will last us 50 years."

At first, the school dove into acquiring new property without hesitations, but as residents on Brighton and Kimpalong realized that MBA was set on expanding, the main players in the process had to face reality and be very patient. "You want to be humble, and you have to work with people," said Mr. Gioia about the best attitude to have

when faced with such a task.

The addition of the 42nd Avenue fields to the MBA campus serves as a perfect, recent example of this approach to success. When the school purchased the lot, the city councilman was strongly opposed to it. But much to his surprise, MBA proceeded to win over the support of the entire neighborhood, thus putting an end to that issue.

This chapter in the process reflects another important lesson learned. Even after the property is bought, the difficulty is not over. The school will have to work hard to maintain good relationships with the surrounding community in years to come, being aware of things like noise, parking, and traffic. MBA wants the neighborhood to feel welcome on campus while not feeling imposed upon by its expansion. Luckily, parking will be much less chaotic with the addition of the garage and new lots on Brighton, and since MBA is only open 180 days of the year, traffic has never been a big issue.

It is somewhat amusing to look back about 70 years ago and consider that MBA owned property all the way up to Woodlawn at one point in time. Due to economic conditions, however, the school sold most of that land. Decades later, we are slowly getting much of it back.

The hardest parts of this project are nearly over. With 15 lots on Brighton and a

few more on Wilson, little stands in the way of the school's plans. At this point, fundraising is the most difficult undertaking, but so many parents, alumni, and friends of MBA have been consistent in making it as smooth a process as possible by giving generously to the school.

Only when all is said and done will people realize how beneficial these additions are going to be. Each new building is LEED certified, i.e. we're going "green." Every full-time teacher will have his/her own classroom, making academic scheduling a breeze compared to the convoluted process it is now. Basically, every interest group will enjoy enhanced experiences. Boys will have a new student center. Parking will be exponentially more accessible. New lunch space, according to Mr. Gioia, will further develop the school's sense of community

and tradition. The same number of students will enjoy more space, for there are no intentions of increasing the student body. Enrollment numbers will stay right where they are.

According to Mr. Sam Jackson, this project is all about the MBA community as it is: "The goal is to enhance all the programs provided by the school. With new and improved facilities, we feel we can improve the experience of every student here in regards to academics, athletics, the arts, and community service."

Only time will tell what is in store for all of us here. Even if we graduate before the construction is complete, most of us will at least get to see a glimpse of the future, one that our children may be a part of some day. By the way, can I get first dibs on kicking a soccer ball off the new parking garage?



The sophomore lot and Wilson entrance are the planned site for a sizable new parking garage with a soccer field on its roof. Photo by Richard Wall

Semi-scientific study ranks men's restrooms

By Daniel Mace

Staff Lavatorialist

One of the most pressing decisions an MBA student will make during his school day is that of which bathroom to use. Ask an average student about the healthcare reform debate raging around the country and the answer you will receive will be ordinary, if not apathetic. However, ask a student about their choice of bathroom, and the answer will be a calculated and knowledgeable opinion that varies broadly among the students. These opinions are so well formulated because bathrooms are something that affects all MBA students. These choices are daily realities with repercussions one must live with immediately. While I understand the formidable nature of my pursuit, I will attempt to find the best and worst of MBA's bathrooms.

Bathroom choice becomes such a complicated decision because of the many factors that go into the selection. Cleanliness is obviously an important factor, and under that general category come more detailed attributes such as odor, paper towels, soap and the resulting smell of the soap. Unlike fine wines, bathrooms most certainly do not get better with age, so years in service are an additional factor. Finally, the amount of traffic the bathroom receives can either make or break the bathroom.

Based on these parameters, I have designed a unique range for measuring a bathroom's worth. In as unscientific a way as possible, I have combined the factors into a scale, ranging from 1 flush (worst) to 4 flushes (best). Using this scale, I have evaluated many of MBA's facilities in an attempt to direct the unknowledgeable toward

the most desirable restroom.

First up is the bathroom just outside the cafeteria. While it may be good for a quick visit before lunch, its benefits do not extend much further than location. Traffic is obviously high because of the cafeteria, and cleanliness sadly suffers because of the traffic. In addition, a terrible design at its conception provides no cover at the urinals. This architectural mishap creates a much more personal restroom experience than anyone would desire. In light of these flaws, this bathroom earns a measly two flushes out of four: its use is possible, but the smart student plans ahead.

Next comes the bathroom on the bottom floor of Wallace. A personal hatred of mine, this facility seems about as old as the school itself. The location makes it seem like a dungeon, accented by windows smaller than a maximum-security prison's. Lighting is poor in best conditions, and being the only bathroom on the large floor, traffic is usually high. On a lighter note, the water fountain right outside is exceptional. Given these subpar conditions, this bathroom earns one flush out of four. Go only to try out the water fountain, never for more extensive purposes.

The Carter Building facilities, however, are a much nicer alternative to the dungeon that is Lower Wallace bathroom. With new facilities and a fresh stock of paper towels, these bathrooms are cozy, not overused, and have a pleasant odor most of the time. For their great atmosphere, these bathrooms earn three flushes out of four. Use as needed, but know that better facilities are out there.

The gem of MBA's men's restrooms is without a doubt the upstairs men's

restroom of the library. This cozy bathroom, with only a urinal and stall, is underused and unappreciated by all but the most discerning bathroom user. Although it's out of the way for almost any place you may be, the trek is most definitely worth it. This quiet sanctuary is a great place to freshen up and relax at the same time. Overall, this is a worthy recipient of the coveted four flushes.

For the more adventurous types, there remains one final option. Rumor has it that the most exquisite of bathrooms are the ones most infrequently used, the women's bathrooms. Though not advocating this feat myself, according to an anonymous source, the thrill of "walking on the wild side," as it's called, is both a fresh new place to do

one's business and an enormous rush of adrenaline. I must warn whoever attempts such a daring move to always look down the hall before entering within the hallowed walls of the women's bathroom.

Although I have visited a number of both good and bad bathrooms, MBA has so many bathrooms across its campus that the options are practically limitless. Which-ever bathroom becomes your favorite, make sure to enjoy it and make it yours. Part of the pride comes from finding your own place to relax and helping keep it in pristine condition for other connoisseurs like yourself to enjoy later. In parting, I would like to leave you with a timeless quote from King George V: "Always go to the bathroom when you have a chance."



Thompson Barr enters the restroom on the top floor of the library, reportedly the best on campus. Photo by Richard Wall

Gaming industry churns out hits for holidays

By Chris Hooks
Staff Writer

This holiday season is turning out to be one of the greatest in the gaming industry. Some of the most highly anticipated games are being released just in time for the holidays, and I am here to preview the three biggest video games of the 2009 holiday season.

The first of the three games is *Assassin's Creed 2*, the sequel to the extremely popular *Assassin's Creed*. The sequel is not a continuation of the first game, but rather a new story with a new character, Firenze, and a new setting, Renaissance Italy, based on the same core gameplay characteristics that made the first game such a huge success. Your character befriends Leonardo Da Vinci, and Leonardo allows Firenze to use some of his creations, including a flying machine, allowing you to soar above the rooftops of Venice.

New features of this game include a more open, world approach, where missions can be completed on the player's own time, and the player can explore the world by free running, climbing, and even swimming and flying. New weapons including two, yes two, hidden blades, and new combat tactics allow Firenze to evolve into a master assassin while learning how to interact with the new, more dynamic crowd. Overall, the game looks to utilize the familiar gameplay of the first game, while improving it and adding new aspects to the game.

The second game in the must-have holiday lineup is *Left 4 Dead 2*, the follow-up to, you guessed it, *Left 4 Dead*, the number-one co-op game of 2008. The new

game still contains the same cooperative zombie-killing carnage as the first game, but re-done. The game is set in a post-zombie, apocalyptic New Orleans. You play as the four survivors, Ellis, Coach, Rochelle, and Nick, as you frantically fight through wave after wave of zombies, with the special zombies (Tanks, Boomers, Hunters, etc) and new, level-specific "uncommon" common zombies, like the Mudmen.

The game features a completely revamped AI system, which changes the weather, the amount of zombies, and the tenacity of the flesh-eaters depending on how well, or badly, your squad is doing. This AI allows the gameplay to be unique no matter how many times you play the same level. The zombies have been improved, both in visuals and audio, as well as the weapons. There is now a variety of weapons you can pick up, including silenced weapons. The addition of melee weapons adds a new, up-close and personal aspect to the game, with everything from chainsaws and axes to the devastating frying pan. You can also get power-ups for your weapons, including incendiary ammo and the like. This game looks like a huge improvement on the already stellar *Left 4 Dead* franchise, and, thus, it earns a spot on the holiday necessity list.

Last and most definitely not least is the game critics are calling the most highly anticipated game of all time. And the highest member on the holiday video game list is: *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2*. The 6th addition to the *Call of Duty* series promises to be the greatest of them all, projected to win game of the year and many more awards. The game is the sequel to the highest-selling



Jordan Stauffer, one of MBA's top COD players, holds a coveted copy of the new game, which is set to top most holiday wish-lists. Photo by Pat Killian

first-person shooter of all time, *Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare*, and the campaign picks upright where the prequel left off. You play as Roach, a member of the special operatives unit that Sgt. "Soap" McTavish is leading. The campaign takes place throughout the world, from Rio de Janeiro to the Middle East, and, as announced only in late October, to the United States itself.

The campaign features all new levels, including player-controlled climbing up a sheer wall of ice, a scuba-diving level, and the classic run-and-gun action that the franchise is known for. With the new game comes the return of the famous multiplayer experience. It, too, has been improved.

The improvements are too numerous to go into too much detail, but here are the

major changes: new guns are sure to suit everyone from the hardcore players to the "spray-n-pray" newcomers, and new attachments, as well as new perks, allow for highly customizable classes, as well as customizable kill streaks. You can customize what you get from the normal UAV and air strike to Predator missiles, two different types of choppers, an anti-UAV, and even becoming the gunner of an AC-130.

Is it the greatest game of all time? Maybe. Will it outsell any other game ever? Most likely. If you have to choose one game to get over the holiday season, *Modern Warfare 2* should be at the top of your list.

Jim Carrey still impresses in *The Truman Show*

By Trey Howard
Staff Writer

"It takes the smallest thing to reveal the chaos underneath." This quote from Australian director Peter Weir provides the theme for many of his films, including *Dead Poet's Society*, *Witness*, the Australian classic *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, and, perhaps most apparently, *The Truman Show*.

In *The Truman Show*, Jim Carrey plays Truman Burbank, the unknowing star of an elaborate television show based around his everyday life. Truman was born and raised on television, watched by millions of viewers following his every step. The film starts with Truman in his late thirties, a seemingly happy man. He's married, has a nice house, a best friend, and a solid job. The world in which Truman lives has been built with love by the show's creator, Christof, who has gone to great lengths to make everything in Truman's life seem real.

Through flashbacks we learn that Christof has also gone to great lengths to prevent Truman from finding out the truth. There have been many close calls. The most important involved a girl Truman fell for and who managed to leak the truth to him before Christof removed her from the show. He then convinced Truman of her craziness. Although Truman moves on, he never stops wondering about what she said. So, back in the present, Truman becomes curious. He starts questioning what he sees and notices more and more things that don't make sense.

Why does his wife appear to be talking to no one about appliances? He could swear that the man he saw walking on the street was his dad, but he died thirty years ago. Why can't he ever leave the town? *The Truman Show* follows its character as he recognizes these oddities, and ultimately seeks his emancipation.

The picture received three Academy Award nominations for Best Director (Peter Weir), Best Screenplay (Andrew Niccol), and Best Supporting Actor (Ed Harris as Christof). Jim Carrey was snubbed, a decision made even more surprising by the fact that he became the only person to win the Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Drama and

not be nominated for the Oscar.

The Truman Show is a high concept film with a satirical tone that keeps it from becoming dreary and a story that climaxes to a triumphant ending. It is a completely unique film that capitalizes on its interesting premise.



Though snubbed in Oscar nominations, Jim Carrey's performance in *The Truman Show* should not be forgotten.

Coach Davis scores big with The Bound'ry

By **Blake Burns**
Staff Diner

Located in mid-town Nashville at 911 20th Avenue South, The Bound'ry offers a superior dining experience for lovers of exceptional "fusion cuisine." Owned by Montgomery Bell Academy Class of 1980 alumnus Joe Davis, The Bound'ry is appealing to the eye as well as the palate. The upscale eatery is set in an open-air, cozy but modern environment complete with colorful murals, sculptures, and a curving balcony that overlooks the main dining area.

So the atmosphere sounds impressive, right? Wait until you hear about the food! I started off my meal with a delicious appetizer of Local Fried Green Tomatoes served with crabmeat. Some other unique starters offered were the Tempura Tuna Roll and Chinese Short Ribs.

The top-choice cut of eight-ounce prime New York Strip was next, complemented with demi-glaze and local fingerling, gouda, lardon, and lobster hash. This savory, melt-in-your-mouth steak puts all others to shame.

My meal was coming to a close when Joe came to my table with his demanding, football-coach demeanor and insisted that I try more of the menu. Manager David Waldon then brought out Stuffed Shrimp and Grits and Lump Crab Cakes. The Crab Cakes were astounding, but the Shrimp and Grits deserve the highest praise. Two large shrimp stuffed with lump crabmeat, wrapped in bacon, and served over a bed of grits was by far one of the best dishes I have ever eaten. I have to admit, Shrimp and Grits is not an entrée I would have normally ordered, but after giving it a try,

I was clearly impressed by its spicy, zesty flavor. Other unique dishes on the menu are Lobster B.L.T. Pizza and Pokanoket Farms Ostrich. There is definitely something for everyone!

Dessert is also a must at The Bound'ry. The Chocolate Tower – a slice

of flourless chocolate cake served with a chocolate cone filled with chocolate mousse and topped with a refreshing scoop of strawberry ice cream – was outstanding. Another favorite is the Black Forest Brownie: a rich brownie topped with cherries and vanilla ice cream.

The Bound'ry is the place to visit for any special occasion (i.e. The Winter Formal, the Prom, or Homecoming) or any time you're in the mood for upscale dining and atmosphere. It's definitely one of the finest restaurants in town!



The Bound'ry offers fantastic fusion cuisine and an open, modern atmosphere. No course fails to delight.

Glow Golf is way cooler than Blake's review

By **Richard Wall**
Captain, Food Review Team

One day after school, R-Dubs and T-Barr went on a journey. They journeyed to find good food and good times on one of the most important days of the week – Thursday. What did they find on this Thursday? Would it even compare to the Saturday before when R-Dubs thrice ate at Sonic Drive-In during the course of one day (Thrice being a baker's dozen minus ten)? Let's find out.

Blackstone Restaurant and Brewery

Did he say brewery? Oh, yes he did. This restaurant's most prominent feature is the mini-brewery that sits in the front of the restaurant and is visible from outside and inside of the building. However, my favorite part was the restaurant itself. The service was great, and they didn't take too long for anything. I got a refill of my Coke every time I thought the word "thirsty." The restaurant itself is pretty big, and even has a nice little fireplace area with a chess board if you want something to do while waiting for your food.

From past experience, I can tell you that the hamburger is the best item on the menu (in my humble opinion). The brick-oven pizza is also very good. This particular time I left my comfort zone and ordered the exotic fish and chips (actually just normal fish and chips). It was pretty good. It is sev-

eral steps above Captain D's and it is a great dining experience, so just dish out the extra cash. The pescado and chips (that's Spanish) was around twelve bucks. I give Blackstone an 8/10, for great atmosphere and really good food at expected prices. What should you do after this great meal?

Drive all the way out to Opry Mills

Don't ask why, just go for it. Drive the twenty minutes or so to find the giant mall that replaced our beloved Opryland. Don't be sad, though, because Opry Mills has a lot of fun things to do. Like walk around a lot.

A majority of the stores are uninteresting / feminine, but there are still some high points like Outdoor World and the Gibson Guitar store. The food court is outstanding in its variety, with many different styles of food for all. There are little kiosks everywhere, and one attendant of an Asian massage place would not leave me alone. She didn't seem to understand that I just didn't have time for a massage.

So it seems that Opry Mills is rather mediocre. FALSE. Go to Glow Golf. Imagine Put-Put mini-golf in a black-light room

with glow-in-the-dark golf balls. Yes, it is as fun as it sounds. Do it. Live it. Be it. We only had time for the 18 holes, but I strongly recommend the 36, because it is so much fun. I yield the remainder of my time to my summation.

There are three things to learn from this adventure. First, Blackstone is good. Go there if you've never gone. Second, if you're out in the Opry Mills area, go to Outdoor World and Glow Golf. Finally, if you're not in the Opry Mills area, hightail it to Opry Mills and go straight to Glow Golf.



The Food Review Team leaves its comfort zone with Blackstone Brewery's exotic fish and chips but finds itself a new home at Opry Mills' Glow Golf. Left photo by Richard Wall

G A. JOEL GLUCK

ORTHODONTICS

A. Joel Gluck DDS, MS

Board Certified Orthodontist

Father of Daniel ('03) and Jonathan ('04) Gluck

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Cross Country wins state title, plans to repeat

By Tom Markham
Staff Writer

Saturday, November 7, proved a momentous day for the MBA varsity cross country team. On a sunny day with a light breeze, competitive teams from all around the state gathered at the Steeplechase course to battle for the Division II/AA state title. MBA brought its top seven runners – freshman Alex Smith; sophomore Daniel Peters; juniors Andrew Powell, Hayes McCord, Ryan Hill, and Michael Peters; and senior David Dalton. Following the Big Red Seven was a crowd of supporters known as the “8th man.” This fan support would prove to be the nail in the coffin for the seemingly unstoppable MBA team’s opponents.

The Big Red captured the state title in dominating fashion, claiming four of the top eight spots in the meet. Michael Peters was MBA’s top runner, finishing third overall with a time of 16:42. He was followed closely by fellow junior Ryan Hill, who finished fourth with a time of 16:44. The team won the meet overall by 41 points over McCallie, a sizeable margin of victory.

It was indeed a very fulfilling victory (their first state championship since 1998) for the Big Red, as they crushed major rivals Ensworth High School by 92 points. After the race, senior David Dalton exclaimed, “I’m so glad I don’t have to be depressed right now!”

The runners and coaches themselves will tell you that the fan support at the meet made a huge difference in the race. Junior Andrew Powell said after the race, “I couldn’t have passed that guy at the finish if it weren’t for my friends cheering me on.”

MBA students brought drums, flags, and noisemakers, rushing from checkpoint to checkpoint along the course to cheer on the Big Red. Race officials even had to quiet down the raucous “Roll, Red, Roll!” cheer at the starting line in order to start the race. At the conclusion of the meet, the fans gathered around the podium to cheer on the winning team and watch as head coach Robert Pruitt was doused with a celebratory cooler of ice water.

The triumphant runners look to carry their success further into the season and next year as well. Juniors Michael



MBA's state cross country team celebrates its 3rd state championship in school history. With many young runners, the team believes it can repeat next year.

Peters and Ryan Hill will participate later this year at the regional meet. The team is very optimistic for next season as well. Losing only senior David Dalton out of the top seven runners, the team is setting high

goals for another state championship and hoping to take the top five spots in a perfect performance. It will be exciting to follow these runners as they return next year to defend their state title.

Swimming captains discuss season, college

By George Swenson
Staff Writer

After a strong season and state runner-up finish last year, the 2009-2010 varsity swim team is looking to capture the state title. Senior captains Seth Akers-Campbell, Jack Murfee and Pat Killian think the team has a very good chance to win the title this year. The depth of the team from the freshmen to senior swimmers will make winning the state title even more possible.

Seth Akers-Campbell began swimming for MBA in the 7th grade and started swimming for the Nashville Aquatic Club in the 3rd grade. His goal for the team is to win the state title and believes MBA has an opportunity to do so, due to Baylor’s loss of key seniors and MBA’s outstanding freshman swimmers. On a more personal note, Seth hopes to drop times in his events and to swim under the school record in the 500-yard freestyle. Seth has been recruited by Ivy League schools, small Division I schools, and Division III schools. However, he has already committed to Brown University, but because he has not been accepted,

it is not yet official. While not in the pool, Seth is a member of the Science Olympiad team and co-editor of the yearbook. In short, Seth is “really excited about our potential to do well.”

Jack Murfee has high hopes for the team to win the region and state meets. Personally he wants to place in the top three in the state in the 100-meter backstroke and 50-meter freestyle. Jack swam for MBA as a freshman and started swimming for NAC as a 4th-grader. He has been recruited by Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. If he had to choose, he would pick Virginia. While not swimming, Jack enjoys listening to music, playing the drums, and hanging out with his friends.

Pat Killian aspires to place in the top eight, record All-American times in his individual events, and, of course, win State. Pat knows the team has an opportunity to win the state because of the “solid seniors and dream-team freshman class.” Pat started swimming for NAC when he was six years old and has swum for MBA since the 7th grade. He has committed to Yale, saying he wants to swim there, but now has to wait



Senior Jack Murfee dives in at last season's State meet. Captains Jack, Seth Akers-Campbell and Pat Killian, all DI recruits, hope to capture a state championship.

until December 15 until it is official. When asked why he chose Yale, he responded, “it is a really strong fit for me – the academic excellence that shaped my college search and a level of athletics at which I can continue to improve and not get shoved to the back.”

This team has great expectations with the leadership of Seth, Jack and Pat along with Coach Dobbs and Coach Deutsch, which will allow the team to reach its goal of winning the state title.

Successful bowling team in need of new talent

By Nicholas Green
Staff Writer

After an exhausting day of school-work, the Big Red Bowlers enjoy a warm pizza and friendly conversations with the Honeybears at Strike and Spare. Through their tiring workouts of going to the concession stand and back and under Commander “Kinpip” Carr’s stern coaching, MBA has held an impressive 9-1 record, only losing a tight match to powerhouse DCA.

Despite this tough loss, the bowlers demolished nearly every other team on their schedule, including a win against

Ensworth 25-2. However, the Big Red faced a troubling match against the challenging BGA team. After losing two out of the three games, the bowlers were determined to win. With the help of returning seniors, such as Neil Reinhardt and Oliver Oldacre, and Hayden Wieck off of the bench, MBA was able to defeat BGA 14-13.

During the rest of the season, MBA has some real stars, including John Andrews and Neil Reinhardt, who add fire to the lanes with their near 300 games. During practices though, it is the backups’ time to shine, as Dylan Petraitis expresses his thunderous “booms” throughout Strike and

Spare. Also, Robert “Bobby” Papel shows off his airborne ‘Holiday Inn’ dance. John Andrews greatly demonstrates how far this year’s bowling has gone by stating, “The 2009-2010 Bowling Squad has really turned out to be great. We have had some guys step up to the lane big time, filling the shoes of graduates.”

John also expressed his concern over the lack of members for next year: “With eight seniors and two freshmen, it’s not looking like there will be a team. So people need to come out! It’s the best program at MBA without a doubt.”

Although I have tried many sports,

including football and lacrosse, bowling has been the most fun I have ever had. The experience is best described by Ben Sutter’s cry, “AZUGAAZUGAAZUGA!” I recommend that anyone and everyone should try out for the bowling team next year to keep on the tradition of the best sport at MBA.



Ultimate preserves Big Red dignity Ensworth

By Kyle Brantley
Sports Editor

MBA's Ultimate team saved the school from total embarrassment last year, as the only athletic team that won a state championship. Gratitude from students, faculty, and friends of the school will be accepted through donations for the team or attendance at the majority of Ultimate games this year. The Ultimate state championship last year was also the first ever for MBA's Ultimate program, a tradition that it hopes to continue this year.

Led by seniors Sam Moxley, Steven Gaitens, and some kid named Kyle Brantley, the Ultimate team started its own intense weights and running program this fall. After just a couple months of work, two things are for certain. Paul Moore is a beast, as he has improved dramatically in just a few short weeks, and Mitchell Shope needs to get his act together (i.e., he needs to actually learn how to run to Elmont Park). Many students have also been wondering where Will Baker can be found, and the answer is on the Ultimate field from three thirty to five.

This year's team consists of a solid group of juniors and just five seniors (Steven Gaitens, Sam Moxley, Kyle Brantley, Mac Frith, and Sami Ansari). The Ultimate program graduated seven seniors last year, so it will be key for this year's team to have the senior class step up to the plate and deliver. The team will face its stiffest competition this year from USN and McCallie, two

teams that consistently pump out Ultimate talent. The team also plans to take on college competition this year; last year the team took down Ultimate powerhouses Rhodes, Southern Miss, and Delta State.

Seniors that are just finishing up football, don't have a winter sport and can-

not take a season off, we'd like officially to welcome all of you (unless your name is Jackson Roberts) out to where the discers roam. Verbal commitments from Jordan Herring and Trey Howard so far. Ultimate is fun.



Nick Kohler guards Tom Markham in practice. The Ultimate team, last year's only state champion, is buoyed by a strong junior class. Photo by Parrish Preston

continued from page 1

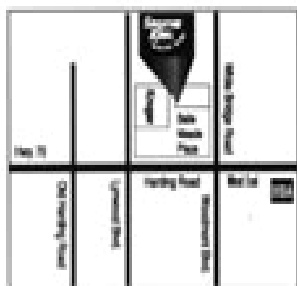
will be taken off Simonis. MBA needs to score early and avoid two-score deficits, because with a lead Ensworth's defense can be much more aggressive and come after the Big Red's young quarterback.

Defensively for MBA a lot has changed since the two teams last met. Linebacker Fitz Lassing explained, "We have changed our defense from a 4-4 to an under which is more like a 4-3. Having the new defense will help us, but then it's all about playing the gaps and not missing tackles." MBA must tackle well, as missed tackles will enable Darkwa to get into space where he is nearly impossible to tackle. In the regular season, Ensworth pushed back MBA's defensive line, and in game two, if the defensive line gets pushed back, we will all be watching a lot of Darkwa and listening to a lot of the "Tiger Rumble."

As far as special teams go, Fitz Lassing's punting will be huge: flipping field position and backing up Ensworth's offense will be crucial in stopping their attack. Andrew Fletcher will need to make his field goals, also, but when the Big Red gets a chance to score, touchdowns need to be going up on the board.

Do not count out McGugin's Big Red. If the Red can make some big plays, keep from giving any up, flip the field, and win the turnover battle, they have a chance at snagging the upset.

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Crew enjoys success in inaugural season

By Rob Edwards
Staff Writer

By now, all of you have probably heard of MBA's newest addition to its wide variety of athletic opportunities: the Big Red Crew team. However, the schedule, roster, and purpose of the MBA rowing team have remained a pretty well-kept secret.

The Big Red Crew team consists of sixteen MBA boys and is coached by two former Vanderbilt coaches, Brandy Sherwood and Leslie Husted. The team meets at MBA at 5:00 a.m. (yes, 5:00 a.m.) Monday through Thursday and drives over to Percy Priest Lake, where we row on boats that belong to Vanderbilt and the Nashville Rowing Club.

The Boats

Now, for those of you who don't know, the boats used in rowing are very precise, delicate pieces of equipment (worth around \$25,000 a piece), and MBA races both a 4-man boat and an 8-man boat. In each boat, there is a coxswain, who is an extra person that sits at the stern of the boat, both steering the boat and instructing the rowers on what to do. The rowers face backwards, and each person rows one oar while he sits on a sliding seat to maximize power from their legs. The whole motion of a stroke – from one's legs to back to arms – is actually extremely complicated and takes a really long time to learn.

The Races

In its inaugural season, the Big Red Rowers competed in three regattas, two in Chattanooga and one in Oak Ridge. At each



MBA's four-seat - (l to r) Joseph Lowe, Oliver Oldacre, Thompson Barr and Matt Bracy - power through the water. After a successful fall season, the team is looking for more members for winter training and the spring races.

regatta MBA did progressively better, and with only eight weeks of practice for the entire season, we held up extremely well against teams like McCallie, who were much more experienced. Battling both the heat and the freezing rain in races thus far, the crew team really stepped it up to make a name for MBA rowing.

Fall season regattas consist of races of 5000 meters that generally take around 20-30 minutes to complete, depending on the current of the river. With hundreds of boats at each race, boats in each event are staggered and are mainly racing against the clock. You start, however, close enough that passing another boat happens really often.

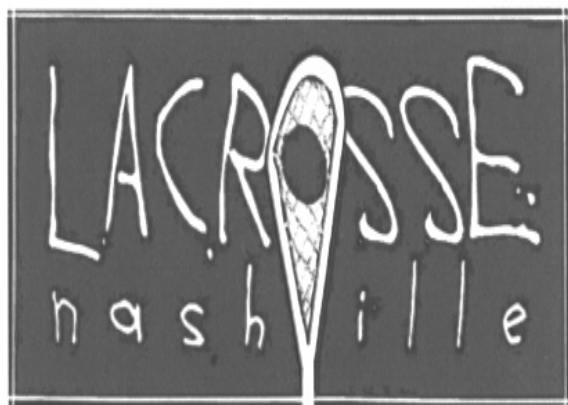
The Head of Hooch

The biggest regatta we have attended was the Head of the Hooch in Chattanooga. With almost 10,000 people in attendance and with almost 2000 boats competing, representing colleges, club teams, and high schools all around the continent and even some from Europe, we knew we had to go out there and dominate, and we did. It was a huge, chaotic mass of people, with tons and tons of tents packed into a couple miles of shore and so many boats that one boat launched off the dock every 5 seconds for 12 straight hours.

The Future

Even though the fall season is over,

there is still so much more yet to come. We finally got the team started and stirred up some interest around campus. Hopefully, all of you will want to come out for crew. It's a lot of work, but a lot of fun at the same time. All winter, since it's too cold to row, we will meet at MBA at 6:00am only 3 times a week, and then you will have nothing after school. Sounds good, doesn't it? The spring season consists of 2000 Meter races called SPRINT races, in which every boat starts at a single starting line, racing against each other. Super intense, super awesome!



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sponsor: Mongolia
Delegates: Pat Killian, Will Henry, Dalton Fouts
Committee: Social Humanitarian and Cultural

The Great Wall of China: A Modern Monument to Racism and Prejudice

- 1 To the General Assembly.
- 2
- 3 NOTING Mongolia's economic depression and continuing struggles following its
- 4 1990 liberation,
- 5
- 6 DEEPLY CONCERNED by the pejorative attitudes of Mongolia's better
- 7 established neighbors, as evidenced by China's environmental encroachments and
- 8 Russia's non-supportive role,
- 9
- 10 RECALLING China's Great Wall's original design of Mongolian isolation and
- 11 exclusion and its development through innumerable civilian deaths and nefarious
- 12 tyranny,
- 13 FULLY ALARMED by the modern racist implications of China's maintenance
- 14 and exploitation of the Great Wall as a cheap tourist attraction,
- 15
- 16 NOTING China's numerous other pillars of its tourist economy,
- 17
- 18 CONVINCED of the social and metaphorical attacks perpetrated by China
- 19 through its abominable Wall against the Mongolian people and their welfare as a
- 20 growing country,
- 21 We the delegation of Mongolia hereby
- 22
- 23 CONDEMN the "Great" Wall of China as an antiquated symbol of racism and
- 24 prejudice with no acceptable fit in the modern world,
- 25
- 26 ENDORSE the Wall's prompt demolition,
- 27
- 28 APPROVE the erection of a new monument from the Wall's last standing segment
- 29 reading, in both Khalkha Mongol and Mandarin Chinese, "Let the Horses of
- 30 Equality Run Free,"
- 31
- 32 AFFIRM the positive influence on Mongolia's international standing and those of
- 22 other developing Asian countries the removal of this Wall will produce.

Though shot down by teams from Harpeth Hall, the Mongolian delegation received a standing ovation for its noble attempts to promote cultural understanding and equality